93 Woodman Park Rochester, New York 14609

This newsletter is published by Friends of Lovely Ann Warren. No taxpayer funds were used.

Meeting with Councilwoman Warren

Remember, anytime that you have a question or concern you do not have to wait until a meeting to speak with me. Please email me at Lovely. Warren@cityofrochester.gov or call me at (585) 428-6684 at your convenience.

Meals on Wheels Needs You!

Meals on Wheels needs volunteers to deliver meals to our most precious constituents.

Please note that this agency is continuing to provide services, while facing funding cuts. In this troubled economy, the demand for Meals on Wheels has gone up significantly.

If you would like to be a volunteer or make a donation, please call Monroe County Meals on Wheels at (585) 787-8326.

Donation fund for Rochester Police Officer

The Rochester Police Locust Club has established a fund to support the family of Officer Anthony DiPonzio. Officer DiPonzio was shot while on duty late last month.

The fund will help to cover any expenses for Officer DiPonzio family as they deal with this tragedy. If you would like to help, donations can be sent to: The Rochester Police Locust Club, 1425 Lexington Avenue, Rochester, New York 14606.

Our best wishes and prayers go out to Officer DiPonzio and his family during this very difficult time.



ROCHESTER CITY COUNCILWOMAN LOVELY WARREN



"Restoring Hope, Rebuilding Community"

The North East Times

FROM OUR COUNCILWOMAN

Volume 2, No. 1 Spring 2009

Dear Fellow North East Community Member:

In this edition of the North East Times you will learn about some important issues that will have an impact on the City of Rochester and how these new laws may affect you.

As always I welcome your input on issues and concerns, please call me at (585) 428-6684.

At your Service,

Lovely

Judicial Warrants

n February 2009, City Council approved legislation establishing the use of judicial warrants to allow City property inspectors to enter residential rental property. In recent years, a growing number of landlords and a few tenants have barred property inspectors from conducting the housing inspections necessary to get a Certificate of Occupancy and operate legally.

The City of Rochester is responsible for enforcing the New York State fire prevention and building code, and Rochester's property codes, including the lead poisoning prevention ordinance. The judicial warrant is the final attempt to gain limited, controlled access to rental housing that is long overdue for inspection.

It is important to know that the judicial warrant is not an extension of police power; it is for maintaining housing codes only. Sixty percent of Rochester's housing stock is rental property, and failure to enforce the fire; building and property codes that regulate property would have a significant impact on the quality of housing in the City. The inability to enforce these basic health and safety standards would hasten the deterioration of already struggling neighborhoods.

The Neighborhood Service Centers (NSC) will continue to work with landlords and tenants to inspect properties at a time convenient to all parties. If you have questions about the judicial warrant, please call Molly Clifford, Director of NSC, at (585) 428-6524.



Sale of Delinquent Tax Liens

n November 2008, City Council approved the sale of property tax liens, or unpaid property taxes, to American Tax Funding, Inc. (ATF). Since they don't have the same regulatory framework that City government follows, ATF has the ability to negotiate more flexible repayment terms than the City, helping to reduce the number of homes taken in foreclosure each year.

Supporting neighborhoods includes keeping families in their homes. By selling tax liens, the City keeps more homes from the auction block and gets more money than we're able to collect in back taxes. The City's focus is on providing quality services to residents and businesses, not staffing a collection agency. The City also is limited by State law on how it writes and enforces repayment plans. In contrast, ATF has the flexibility and professional skills to collect tax liens as people can pay for them. Far too often, tax liens force property owners into foreclosure; working with ATF, residents have increased opportunity to pay off their debt and keep their house.

The City thoroughly investigated the entire issue of selling tax liens to ATF. Our research, including the experiences of other cities around the nation, indicates that this initiative will be positive for the City, the taxpayers, and the health of our neighborhoods. In addition, Council will review quarterly reports from ATF, and a formal evaluation will be done to see how well this program is doing after two years. At the end of the current three-year contract, we have the option of ending the sale of property tax liens, if we see fit.

If you have further questions or concerns about this initiative, please call our City Treasurer, Charles Benincasa at (585) 428-6705.

Emergency Assistance Repair Program (EARP)

ormerly known as the Residential Assistance Program ("RAP"), the EARP is the new City of Rochester repair program for owner-occupied properties. In the upcoming year approximately 200 grants will be available to assist income-eligible City residents to address emergency repairs.

Eligibility will be limited to **owner-occupants** of one to four unit structures who have lived in the City home for at least three years prior to receiving an EARP service grant and have not received a RAP grant from January 2004 through December 2008.

Household income must be documented to be at least 80% or less than the median area income as established and updated by HUD, and owner-occupants applicants must be current on taxes and mortgage. Properties may receive only one grant every ten years.

In mid-March you should call one of the following North East neighborhood organizations to apply:

Beechwood-Browncroft Culver-Winton, Homestead Heights, Northland-Lyceum

North East Area Development (NEAD)

360 Webster Avenue, 14609 (585) 482-7320

(303) 102

14621 Zip Code Area Marketview Heights **Marketview Heights Association**

308 North Street, 14605 (585) 423-1540

Upper Falls

Coalition of North East Associations

(CONEA)

471 Hudson Avenue, 14605

(585) 325-1311

City Government Hard at Work for You

he Department of Neighborhood and Business Development (NBD), is a new City agency created after the merger of the departments of Economic Development, Community Development, and the Neighborhood Service Centers.

The NBD will allow us to improve customer service while reducing the cost of government. The NBD will use a team-oriented approach with our residents, investors, and community partners to solve problems, address quality of life concerns, support our businesses and enhance our neighborhoods.

A perfect example of how the NBD will work is by exploring the possibility of having a Price-Rite grocery store in North East Rochester. Commissioner Carlos Carballada and I are looking forward to working with Price-Rite to secure a location in North East Rochester. I will be sure to keep you updated on this important issue.

Community Activities in Rochester

The Department of Recreation and Youth services provides such a wide variety of programs that I am unable to list them all. For a complete listing of scheduled programs please call 311 and inquire about the recreation center near you!



Summer Aquatics Employment Opportunities –

Applications are being accepted now on the City's website www.cityofrochester.gov or in Room 103A, City Hall, 30 Church Street, Rochester, New York 14614. Application deadline is 5 p.m. on April 24, 2009.

- September 1st August 31st, 2009 The Feel Great PASS! If you are 60 years old or over and live in the City of Rochester, this pass is for you. For \$.00 a year, this pass entitles you to a 50% discount on activities and more!
- September 15th May 28th, 2009- Accelerated Reading and Homework Help. Monday through Thursday, at the Avenue D Community Center, 200 Avenue D. Computer lab is available for all learning activities.
- October 20th May 18th, 2009 Discover African Arts! Children ages 6 to 13 are invited to join instructor Melinda Phillips of the Dazzle Theatre, in the Cafeteria of Kodak #41 School Recreation Center, 279 East Ridge Road, Mondays from 3 to 4 p.m.
- November 3rd May 15th, 2009 If you are ages 10 to 15, join the Citywide Neighborhood Youth Basketball League! The fun takes place on Mondays, Wednesday, and Friday from 3:30 to 6 p.m. at the Campbell Street Community Center, 524 Campbell Street. Develop good sportsmanship, teamwork, and basic basketball skills. To register, stop in at the recreation center.
- Thursday, March 12th, 2009 Mr. March 1 on 1 Basketball Tournament for teens 15 to 18, at the North Street Community Center Gymnasium, 700 North Street, from 4 to 9 p.m. To be a part of the fun, you must register at the center by March 10th. Trophies will be awarded.

For questions on any of the events sponsored by the City of Rochester please call 311.

If you would like flyers to distribute or post on your neighborhood bulletin board regarding the events listed, please call my office and we will gladly send them to you!

NEED HELP?



The City of Rochester
has one easy number
to call for all
your non-emergency needs.
Whether it is a question
about animal control,
taxes, leaf removal,
recreation programs —
or any other City
non-emergency
service, just dial **311**.



For police, fire, ambulance or other emergencies, call **911**.



To speak to Councilwoman Lovely A. Warren, call 428-6684.